



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid, Special Agent-in-Charge of the FBI Janice Fedarcyk, and Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice Grace Chung Becker, announced today the filing of a one count criminal complaint<sup>1</sup> charging William Gould with interference with employment by threat of violence, a Class A misdemeanor. According to the complaint, Gould placed a hangman's noose in an area where his African-American colleague would find it, in an attempt to interfere with his colleague's federally protected employment activity, and because the colleague was African-American.

The complaint alleges that on August 11, 2008, Gould fashioned and placed a hangman's noose in a workspace at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he worked as an electrician, so that his colleague would find it. Approximately two weeks earlier, Children's Hospital had announced the acceptance of that African-American colleague into a management training program specifically focused on hiring and promoting minority employees. Gould had reportedly complained about the program on numerous occasions to co-workers and to hospital executives, allegedly saying he found the program unfair.

"It is utterly disheartening to see such ethnic intimidation occur in our country," said Magid. "It is unacceptable for anyone to act on prejudice and engage in ethnic intimidation in the workplace. Such conduct disrupts a person's life, interferes with their federally-protected rights, and will be fully prosecuted."

According to the affidavit, the victim was alone and isolated when he found the hangman's noose. He immediately felt intimidated and perceived the noose as representing the lynching of African-Americans. In the aftermath of the incident, the victim became fearful for his own and his family's safety. The victim described how the incident made him cautious in his work environment.

"Hateful words or intimidating symbols, such as the hanging noose in this case, have a chilling effect on not just the victim, but the entire community and workplace," said Janice Fedarcyk, special agent-in-charge of the FBI. "That is why investigating hate crime is the number one priority in our Civil Rights program. The FBI understands that, unfortunately, the end result of hate crime for a victim is often a loss of personal security and trust of others within the community."

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<sup>1</sup>A complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
William Gould	Philadelphia, PA	62

If convicted, Gould faces a maximum sentence of one year imprisonment, a one year period of supervised release, a \$100,000 fine, and a \$25 special assessment.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Melanie E. Babb and Eric L. Gibson, an attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

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